

September 2011

Bulova Byline

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When the Pentagon and the World Trade Center were attacked on the morning of September 11, 2001, I was attending a committee meeting at the Government Center. Someone entered the room and spoke privately for a minute to County Executive Tony Griffin and Chairman Kate Hanley. I was Braddock District Supervisor at the time.

Kate sat back down, leaned toward me and whispered, "A plane just flew into the World Trade Center in New York, followed by another plane." I spent a minute processing the gravity of this information, then asked Kate, "Do they think it was terrorism?" Kate nodded. "Yes." Not long after, the Pentagon was struck and for the rest of the morning we heard false reports claiming that the White House and other federal facilities had been attacked. It was a confusing, chaotic and for many a terrifying day.

I was up early the next morning and went for a run. It was gorgeous and sunny, just like the day before. All planes had been grounded and the empty sky was strangely quiet. As I ran through my neighborhood, I began to see, house by house, people displaying the American flag. By the end of my run, it looked like the 4th of July – only more so. The spontaneous outpouring of patriotism was amazing.

That evening, working with our Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action (still in its infancy), I helped to organize an ALL Faiths candlelight ceremony at the Government Center. It was a very beautiful, patriotic and powerful event and helped to forge a strong and enduring partnership between the County and the many Faith leaders and organizations who serve our community. It continues to this day.

The personal experiences surrounding September 11th were seared into the memories of Americans that day. Some in our community were killed, injured or forever changed. Many lost loved ones. We also lost a sense of security and safety, and knew life would never be the same.

As I write this Byline, it is just days before the 10th anniversary of 9-11. I hope all of us take the time to think about what was lost on that fateful day, and reflect on what our country and community means to us. You can find inside this Byline

a number of opportunities to participate in ceremonies throughout the county. I will be participating in a number of them.

We are also a week away from adoption of “Carryover” – our Board’s action on the positive budget balance remaining now that the books have closed on Fiscal Year 2011. I often say that a budget is not just about numbers. It is about philosophy. It is a document that addresses current needs and funds community priorities. Reading through County budget documents can be like reading through history books.

You can read in our budgets about the County’s response to the catastrophic events surrounding September 11. You can identify funding invested to create an Office of Emergency Management and to build and operate the County’s Public Safety, Transportation and Operations Center, or PSTOC, located near the Government Center on West Ox Road. This Center allows Fairfax County to coordinate with all necessary stakeholders under one roof and with the most up-to-date technology, in case of a catastrophic man-made or natural disaster.

Much of the FY 2010 balance will be saved as a hedge against next year and the turbulence that continues to rock our shaky economy. Part of the balance, however, will be used to provide a modest increase in compensation to our Fairfax County employees, the first in several years. Much of the balance is available thanks to the savings and efficiencies our employees have identified to help our community weather the Great Recession.

To our workforce, and to members of our community who have been so engaged in addressing our challenges and shaping our priorities over these years, I say “thank you!”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

September is National Preparedness Month

Hurricane Irene left a trail of destruction along the east coast in August. Fairfax County was lucky to escape the heaviest damage the storm caused, but we were affected – thousands were left without power and areas flooded ([click here](#) to read about flooding locations).

The hurricane came after a most unusual event – an east coast earthquake. These two events, and what is shaping up to be a busy hurricane season, remind us that as community members and leaders we must always be prepared for the worst.

September is National Preparedness Month, and I urge you to get prepared: **make a plan, assemble a kit, and stay informed.** You can use Northern Virginia's new emergency

planner, [ReadyNova](#) for help. Assemble an emergency preparedness kit (with food and supplies) with the [help of this guide](#).

Our County staff continues to do an amazing job in collecting and distributing preparedness information. They did an outstanding job communication with residents during Irene and should be commended for their efforts. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog to find more information on how to get your family (or your business) prepared for emergencies. To receive alerts from Fairfax County before, during and after emergencies, sign up to receive message from the [Community Emergency Alert Network](#). CEAN delivers alerts as voice message, email or text message. **See Page 7 for more on preparedness.**

On Tenth Anniversary, Remember Losses of 9/11

Many events are being held across Fairfax County to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Here at the Government Center, I will be speaking at 2:00pm at the **Fairfax County Memorial Grove**.

The ceremony will take place in the Government Center Forum, followed by a procession outside to the 9/11 Memorial Grove. Read more about the event by [clicking here](#). Those planning to attend are asked to arrive by 1:45 p.m.

The Grove was the first U.S. memorial commemorating Sept. 11, 2001, to be built on public space involving federal and local government collaboration with the community in an area where residents were personally

affected by the tragedy through loss of life or participation in rescue efforts. It was designed by National Park Service landscape architect and Fairfax County Tree Commissioner Michael McMahon.

The **Sully Station II Neighborhood Watch**, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Virginia Society Fairfax Resolves Chapter, are sponsoring a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Westfield HS Football Stadium. The event will be hosted by Gail Pennybacker of WJLA-TV. For more details, [click here](#).



Reports from the Auditor to the Board Now Online

The reports prepared by the Auditor to the Board are an important tool which the Board of Supervisors uses make sure that county programs are efficiently run and that public funding is being used as responsibly as possible. I am pleased to be able to tell you that these reports have been posted the County's website so that it is easier for county residents to access them. Please follow this link to visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardauditor/>.

As Chair of the Board's Budget Committee in the 1990s, I championed the creation of an independent auditor office reporting directly to

the Board of Supervisors. Since then, the Auditor to the Board has identified process improvements, efficiencies and cost avoidances which have saved county tax payers millions of dollars.

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This website will continue to be updated as the Auditor completes new reports and I hope residents have an opportunity to visit the site, especially as we begin to prepare the fiscal year 2013 budget.

"Eagle Express" Makes its Inaugural Run

I recently had the opportunity to ride on the 'maiden voyage' of Fairfax Connector Route 335, dubbed the Eagle Express, along with Supervisors Jeff McKay and Gerry Hyland. Route 335 is a new service route created in response to the influx of approximately 13,000 new Department of Defense employees to Fort Belvoir this fall under Base Re-Alignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Fairfax Connector staff and Fort Belvoir leadership partnered to review existing transit service and identify new service needs prior to new workers arriving to the area.

As a result of this review and the projected demand, Fairfax Connector has introduced four new routes – 333, 334 335 and 371 – and is changing routes 159, 171, 305 and 310. These changes will result in a 5% increase in overall Connector service, will provide enhanced connections to the Lorton VRE Station, the Huntington Metro Start, the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station and the Fort Belvoir Main Post with several of the most heavily-sued routes in southern Fairfax County receiving increased service. For additional information and route schedules, please visit: www.fairfaxconnector.com.



Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program Offers Grants

If you have an idea or project to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood, Fairfax County is now offering up to \$5,000 in matching grants to make your community a better place to live. The grants are available to neighborhood or civic groups, homeowner's associations or nonprofits through the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP). **Applications are due by Monday, Oct. 31 at 2 p.m.**, and additional information about groups or projects eligible for funding [can be found online](#).

In the past, communities have received money to repair or expand children's playgrounds, put up community signs, plant community gardens, and build paths, bridges and outdoor pavilions to help connect neighbors and neighborhoods.

Because the NEPP is a matching grant program, **organizations must contribute a matching amount of cash; in-kind donations; discounts**

on goods or services; and/or sweat equity. Eligible projects also must include at least 25 percent volunteer labor as part of their match.

County staff will hold three information sessions in September to explain how to apply:

- **Thursday, September 8, 6 p.m.**
South County Center, Room 221C
8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria
- **Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m.**
Falls Church Human Services Building,
Suite 305
6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- **Wednesday, September 21, 6 p.m.**
McLean Governmental Center,
Community Room, 1437 Balls Hill Road,
McLean

For more information about the program, information sessions, or application process, contact **Rachel Robinson, Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services**, at 703-324-5639, TTY 711

Hazardous Waste Collection Event Scheduled for Sept. 10

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **household hazardous waste** collection day on Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McLean Governmental Center located at 1427 Balls Hill Road, McLean. There is no cost for Fairfax County residents to participate in this event.



Residents will be able to dispose of household hazardous waste including oil-based paints, fluorescent tubes and light bulbs, automotive fluids, pesticides, herbicides and more. **Business or commercial waste, electronics, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries and propane tanks will not be accepted at this event.**

For a complete list of household items qualifying as hazardous waste, and for instructions on their proper disposal, please visit the Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphhw.htm, or call our office at 703-324-5230, TTY 711.

Learn to Teach Teens to Recognize Signs of Suicide

The Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc. and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board are holding a SOS Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program training workshop on October 27. Participants will learn how to teach high school students how to identify the symptoms of depression and suicidality in themselves or their friends, and encourages help-seeking through the use of the ACT technique (Acknowledge, Care, Tell).

SOS is an award-winning, nationally recognized program designed for middle and high school-age students. Training is free and is now open at www.FairfaxYouth.org. If you are interested in receiving and implementing this training but are unable to attend this session, please contact Mary Beth Waite at 703-324-5535.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1301 Collingwood Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Workshop begins promptly at 9:00 a.m., and ends at noon.



Fairfax County Teens Invited to Explore Policing

Teens and their parents are invited to an informational meeting on Monday, September 26, at the Massey Building, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax to learn more about Fairfax County Police Explorer Post #1742. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in the A level conference room.

For any teen that's ever dreamed of a potential career in the challenging field of law enforcement, the Explorers are a good place to start. Explorer Post #1742 is open to Fairfax County young adults between the ages of 14 and 20. Members receive law enforcement training by trained police officers who serve as advisors and facilitators for the program.

Explorers serve police departments and their communities across the country and provide young people with opportunities to learn and practice skills that police officers use on a daily basis. Explorers gain experience in fingerprinting, processing crime scenes, staffing special events and helping officers spread the word about safety and crime prevention.

This is a one-time opportunity to meet with the leaders of the Explorer program and have all of your questions answered; it will not be repeated later in the year. Don't miss it.

Free parking is available at a public parking garage on Page Avenue. More information can be found at www.post1742.org.

Destination Marketing Accreditation Program Accredits Visit Fairfax

Congratulations to our wonderful partners over at Visit Fairfax! The Destination Marketing Accreditation Program has given Visit Fairfax a four-year accreditation certification for its efforts to promote all things Fairfax. The rigorous standards DMAP asks of its accredited organizations proves that Visit Fairfax is truly a world class organization. Congratulations!

ReadyNova.com Helps You Develop an Emergency Plan

ReadyNova.com was designed to assist **residents and businesses** in the Northern Virginia region in developing a **Family Preparedness Planner** or a **Business Preparedness Planner**, both of which follow basic and accepted emergency management practices.

The Family Preparedness Planner provides an easy to use tool for families in Fairfax County to develop their emergency plan, a family communications plan, and guidelines for developing their emergency survival kit.

The **Business Preparedness Planner** provides a detailed process for Fairfax County businesses to develop their emergency plan, including continuity of operations, communications plans and to identify the process for return to their facility after a disaster event.

Both the Family Preparedness Planner and the Business Preparedness Planner are user-friendly applications that meet ADA requirements for accessibility.

Additionally, user privacy is guaranteed: no personal or business information is saved by the website or either Planner application.

This website and the preparedness planners were developed with an Urban Area Security Initiative award of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System with project oversight provided by **Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management** on behalf of Northern Virginia emergency management organizations and partners.



CEAN Offers Emergency Alerts for Residents, Businesses

The Community Emergency Alert Network, or CEAN, is a service of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. When you sign up, you will be provided a personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken, and other important information such as National Weather Service watches and warnings.

CEAN alerts may include personal safety, weather, major accidents involving utilities or roadways, or disaster notification such as a terrorist attack. In addition, residents may also register for any or all of the additional CEAN alert categories: **severe weather 24/7; severe weather 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; severe traffic disruptions and county government closings/schedule changes.**

Messages will be delivered to e-mail accounts, cell phones (text messaging costs may apply; check with your service provider), text pagers, satellite phones and wireless PDAs that are registered on the system.

Businesses can register for CEAN, too. The service allows a business contact to add up to five employees to CEAN. Networking multiple employees to CEAN is intended to foster businesses' internal communication and emergency response programs.

To register for the Community Emergency Alert Network, visit the Fairfax County Web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. For additional information on the CEAN, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711.

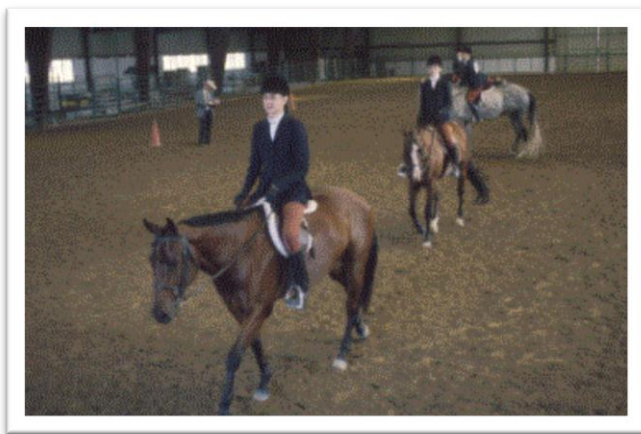
Equestrian Task Force Needs Your Help

In early 2011, the Board of Supervisors appointed an Equestrian Task Force to consider the future development of horse related activities in Fairfax County. For the next few months, the Task Force will be considering needs and services relating to the equestrian community and will present recommendations to the Board in March 2012.

The Task Force is using a survey as part of its effort to obtain useful information. Your opinion means a lot to the future of this endeavor and

your assistance will be helpful in shaping the recommendations of the Task Force. Please [click here to fill out the survey](#).

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please forward this link to anyone who has an interest in equestrian activities and lives in Fairfax County. To learn more about the Task Force, please [visit their website](#).



Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in September

We've got another exciting month of Civil War events coming up. Here are just a couple I want to highlight:

Mosby's Combat Operations In Fairfax County

Sep 14, Great Falls Library

Address: 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

Times: 7 PM

Admission: FREE

This documentary covers 42 locations in Fairfax County where Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby conducted military operations during the Civil War.

Click here for a complete list of events happening in and around Fairfax County

31st Annual Fall Mosby's Confederacy Bus Tour

Sep 17, Truro Rectory

Address: 10520 Main Street, Fairfax

Times: 8:30am-5:30pm

Contact: Don Hakenson

Phone: (703) 971-4984

Admission: \$65 members for the Stuart-Mosby Society - \$75 for non-members

Come with us and tour Northern Virginia's historic "Hallowed Ground" The Command will, as usual, be stopping at a "fast food" restaurant for lunch. Lunch is on your own. Planned Itinerary: The bus will be leaving the Truro Rectory at 8:30 a.m. We will be visiting various Mosby sites in Front Royal, Flint Hill (in Rappahannock County), Little Washington, the Gray Ghost Winery and more.